



WINGS SPREAD

By Susan Gandy
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 12th Flying Training Wing announced the 2006 Randolph Ambassadors Dec 9.

Staff Sgt. Keith Loudermill from the Air Force Personnel Center and Senior Airmen Francisca Alaka of the 1st Manpower Requirements Squadron will represent the base at more than 75 events throughout the year including parades, social and military functions, hospital and school visits, and the Fiesta San Antonio celebration in April.

The first official ambassador function of 2006 is the annual visit to the Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital in February.

Sergeant Loudermill, a native of Pasadena, Md., is a personnel technician who processes worldwide Air Force assignment policies and procedures for more than 10,500 officers. As a technical advisor, he is responsible for officer assignment transactions and procedures, and serves as liaison to commander's support staffs on assignment-related issues.

Sergeant Loudermill also brings song and

dance talents to the ambassador program. He toured as a cast member with Tops In Blue in 2002 and performs the National Anthem at various base and community functions. He said he hopes to tour with Tops In Blue again in the future.

He is working toward his bachelor's degree in work force education with Southern Illinois University.

Sergeant Loudermill said he is excited about his selection as an ambassador and is looking forward to promoting the armed forces and the principles they represent.

"I was very excited to hear I was selected as one of the Randolph Ambassadors, and I'm also very thankful to my office for giving me the opportunity to apply for the position since I'm new in the San Antonio area and in the office," he said. "I look forward to my obligation as an ambassador and to the many community events I will be a part of, and I plan to show the public the pride I feel in representing my service and my country not just on duty but in everything I do."

Randolph's other new ambassador, Airman Alaka, hails from Milwaukee and is a manpower technician apprentice at the 1st MRS, a part of Air Force Manpower Agency. In her position she leads Air Force-wide manpower and other studies to help commanders meet mission needs.

Airman Alaka is pursuing a degree in business administration with an emphasis in human resource management. She hopes to one day become an Air Force officer.

In her spare time, Airman Alaka is an active Red Cross volunteer and recently had the opportunity to help victims in the relief efforts after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

She said she will not only represent the base and Air Force as an ambassador, but the junior enlisted force as well.

"There are so many talented, hard-working and passionate junior enlisted members here at Randolph who might get overlooked because of the large amount of senior ranking personnel," she said. "As an ambassador, I'll do my best to bridge the gap between the lowest-ranking Airman and the highest-ranking officer. I will be an advocate for Randolph in the San Antonio community, and I will be San Antonio's gateway to Randolph's mission and vision, and ultimately their insight into the Air Force."



Senior Airmen Francisca Alaka of the 1st Manpower Requirements Squadron and Staff Sgt. Keith Loudermill from the Air Force Personnel Center will serve as Randolph's Ambassadors for 2006. (Photo by Don Lindsey)

2006 ambassadors named



AF leaders revise mission statement

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley unveiled a revised Air Force mission statement in a letter to all Airmen Dec. 7.

The text of the letter is as follows:

"To the Airmen of the United States Air Force,

"Almost 60 years ago the President and Congress created our Air Force. The world we live in today has changed dramatically over those six decades. Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting, and filled with a wide range of challenges. Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise. Therefore, we have rewritten the Air Force's mission statement to define where and what we do...

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests - to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

"Our task is to provide the President, the Combatant Commanders, and our Nation with an array of options ...options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses. With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world. This is the meaning of sovereign options and the essence of being a superpower. We will be the best at what we do, and we will accomplish our mission as part of a joint, coalition team.

"Our adversaries will contest us across all of the domains: Land, Sea, Air, Space, and Cyberspace. As Airmen, it is our calling to dominate Air, Space, and Cyberspace. If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts. If our enemies underestimate our resolve; then we will fly, fight, and destroy them.

"The pioneers of airpower - Billy Mitchell, Hap Arnold, Curtis LeMay, Bernie Schriever - knew what their mission was: to fly and fight wherever our Nation calls. The Air Force's mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do.

"Our heritage has given us a limitless horizon. Just as our predecessors did in the past, we will continue to fly, to fight, and to win wherever we are called. We are the greatest Air Force in the world, because of you ... because of your sacrifice, dedication, and skill. Keep up the great work!"

Saints offer free tickets for Dec. 24 game

The New Orleans Saints are giving away free tickets to San Antonio military members and Department of Defense ID cardholders for the NFL team's Dec. 24 game against the Detroit Lions at noon at the Alamodome.

Tickets are available at the ITT office today from 1-2 p.m. for military only and from 2-5 p.m. for military and all other DoD ID cardholders.

There is a four-ticket limit and tickets are not for resale.

12th Flying Training Wing Training Status												
Pilot Instructor Training <div>As of Monday</div>			Navigator, EWO Students						Wing Flying Hour Program			
			562nd FTS		563rd FTS				Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
Squadron	Seniors	Overall	CSO/NFO		CSO		Graduate EWO		T-1A	2111.4	2128.2	10,725
99th FTS	1.4	1.0	USAF	221	OPS	46	International	0	T-6A	3412.8	3466.4	17,196
558th FTS	-13.0	-3.0	Navy	38	Advanced EW	19	EW Course	0	T-37B	980.7	1037.0	5,796
559th FTS	1.9	-0.2	International	0	Integration	21	Intro to EW	0	T-38C	1932.7	1998.0	9,937
560th FTS	-1.8	0.1	Total in Training	259		86		0	T-43	837.4	845.5	3,982
Numbers reflect days ahead or behind for senior pilot instructor training class and an average for all PIT classes currently in training.			Numbers reflect students currently in training. The 562nd shows source of combat systems officer students. Air Force students include Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The 563rd indicates students in specific courses.						The required and flown numbers reflect hours flown between Oct. 1, 2005 to date. The annual numbers are total hours for fiscal year 2006.			

AIR AND SPACE
EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE

As of Monday, 71 Team
Randolph members are
deployed in support of
military operations
around the globe

“**PROTECT
YOUR
WINGMAN**”

DUI...

It's a crime
not a mistake

Team Randolph's
last DUI was
August 2, 2005



**Dedicated
June 20, 1930,
Randolph celebrates its
75th Anniversary in 2005**
Graphic by Michelle DeLeon

WINGSPREAD

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Articles for the newspaper should be submitted by noon Thursday the week prior to the desired publication date. Items can be dropped off on a PC- or Macintosh-formatted disk at the Wingspread office in room 110 of Building 100.

Articles may also be sent by e-mail to wingspread@randolph.af.mil or by fax at 652-5412 or base ext. 7-5412.

For more information about submissions, call 652-5760 or base ext. 7-5760.

Wishing you a safe, wonderful holiday

By Gen. William Looney III
Air Education and Training Command
commander

The holidays are an important time to reflect on the past year and give thanks for our family, our friends and the opportunity to serve the American people in the greatest Air and Space Force the world has ever known.

This year, the Airmen of the First Command were presented with many challenges: recruiting, training and educating our future force; preparing for and responding to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and engaging in the Global War on Terror. You met each of these challenges with the integrity, excellence and selfless service that are the hallmarks of our command.

But we all know that without the support of our families, we would not be where we are today--as individuals or as a team. We certainly would not have been able to achieve this year's tremendous successes. That's why I encourage you to take a break from the speed of everyday life during this holiday season to enjoy time with the people who are most important to you.

As you reflect on this past year, remember the Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines who are fighting in the Global War on Terrorism. Remember in your prayers and in your actions families who are separated during the holidays...this is a tough time for them and they need our support. Remember those Americans who have lost loved ones in this struggle...because while the rest of our citizens enjoy this season of celebration, they bear an especially heavy burden. These families need to

“This year, the Airmen of the First Command were presented with many challenges. ... You met each of these challenges with the integrity, excellence and selfless service that are the hallmarks of our command.”

know that their loved ones died serving a noble cause. Each generation of Americans has answered the call to sacrifice for the values we cherish, and this generation is no different. We are fighting the Global War on Terrorism for our children and our children's children. Thanks to those who have paid the ultimate price--and those who continue the fight--our families will enjoy the blessings of liberty for years to come.

Still others faced heart-wrenching losses this year, and we must remember them. For those who are still recovering from this unprecedented hurricane season, know that the Air Force is behind you every step of the way. Nothing is more important than family -- and you are a part of ours. You can continue to rely on us.

Finally, to all our Airmen and their families: Be safe!

If just one piece of a jigsaw puzzle is missing, your eyes are immediately drawn to the absent part. The same principle applies to our command. We are an interdependent team, and each



Gen. William Looney III

**AETC
VIEW FROM
THE TOP**
★★★★

of you is vital to our success. When even one piece of the AETC puzzle is missing, we all feel it. Use common sense and personal risk management while traveling and enjoying holiday activities.

Savor the holidays, and come back whole, healthy, refreshed and fully prepared to do your part to make 2006 a benchmark year for the First Command. My wife, Marilyn, and I wish you a wondrous holiday season, and we wish you health, happiness, and success in 2006 as we continue to develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow.

Success depends on constant effort

By Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- It is truly an honor to serve with you as the secretary of the Air Force. One of my goals from the first letter to you was to emphasize persistent situation awareness -- that is, constant examination of our processes in order to recognize better ways of accomplishing the mission. This note is a part of that process.

After 15 years of continuous engagement, our Air Force finds itself in an operating environment that requires us to examine all mission areas, from platforms to personnel, for stresses, inefficiencies and strains that we must identify and correct through persistent situation awareness.

General Moseley laid out a clear set of priorities: winning the war, recapitalizing our Air Force and providing our Airmen with the skills and training they need to maximize their effectiveness. Advancing these priorities will require each of us to become better resource managers in an increasingly tight fiscal environment.

This long war has taken a toll on our equipment. We are attacking this from two directions; first by expanding the use of LEAN concepts beyond the depots and maintenance operations into the flightline and the office, and second by providing tools to commanders and supervisors to monitor and control resources across the Air Force, whether at a squadron, wing or major command level.

In examining our personnel requirements, our findings mirror what is also occurring in corporations all across America. Specifically, the productivity of our people and the increased capability of our systems have to be balanced against the inherent cost. For example, some career fields are stressed, while others are over-strength.

We also continue to employ contract services when we actually have the same capability within our organic strengths. These are the types of inequities that we must correct.

I want to ensure that all Airmen -- as well as our partners in industry -- are performing duties that are relevant and necessary, so that an Air Force

career and the work of our industrial partners is both rewarding and challenging.

We must analyze all of our operations to look for opportunities to eliminate waste in terms of time and materials, while increasing productivity and continuing to challenge ourselves. We need this focus to ensure we allocate our resources in the most efficient manner and thereby maximize the resources available for the critical task of recapitalization.

Change is never easy. These actions will challenge you over the next few years, and I need all Airmen to contribute in order to ensure success.

We remain committed to the total force and will be working through the specific details of the changes to come as the budget and the Quadrennial Defense Review are completed. As these emerge, we will continue to communicate with you as you strive for persistent situation awareness.

We are reminded daily of your commitment to our first priority -- winning the war. I am honored to serve with you and seek your continued dedication.

Congratulations Retirees

**Wednesday
Col. James "Pat" Clyburn
12th Flying Training Wing**

**Jan. 3
Veronica Lane
12th Maintenance Directorate**

Retirement announcements should be submitted to the *Wingspread* office by noon Friday two weeks prior to the desired date of publication. E-mail announcements to randolph.retiree.messages@randolph.af.mil or fax them to 652-5412. For more information, call the *Wingspread* office at 652-5760.

Brothers exemplify sacrifice of heroes

By Lt. Col. Jay William Mounkes
12th Flying Training Wing
staff judge advocate

Jay and William “Bill” Moreland were two young men who grew up in a large family on a small farm in eastern Kansas.

Close in age, they were inseparable teenagers in the early years of World War II. Still inseparable, on Feb. 16, 1943, Jay and Bill entered the Army, and both were assigned to the 149th Engineer Combat Battalion. They trained together and shipped out together to the European theatre.

On June 6, 1944, they were together in a landing craft as it approached the shores of occupied France. Due to the enormity of D-Day, the facts will never be fully known, but what is known is that their landing craft was hit and the brothers were killed in the merciless waters off Omaha Beach.

Their bodies were never recovered. Their names were inscribed next to each other on the Wall of the Missing at the American cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach.

Back home, a closely knit, grieving family placed a tombstone over two empty graves in a country cemetery

For surviving families, the meaning of respect and remembrance become profound. For the Morelands, Memorial Day was the most important family gathering of the year.

surrounded by waving wheat and rolling pastures. They were heroes.

I was born 10 years after the end of World War II, and my mother named me after her two fallen brothers, “the boys” as the family affectionately called them.

The true significance of this legacy, I am ashamed to admit, didn’t really hit me until I was well into my adult years.

For my grandparents, I cannot, even now, imagine their grief to have lost two sons in the very same instant of time. No matter the honor in death, it is a terrible thing for parents to outlive their children.

My grandmother was, I am told, distraught to the point of almost no return. Strong willed, however, she lived on as an inspiration to her other five children; all went on to be college graduates, a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to

her determination. Proud of all her children no doubt, I equally have no doubt that when she arose on each and every day her thoughts and prayers were with the boys, forever her boys, until she herself passed away in 1988, 44 years after D-Day.

For surviving families, the meaning of respect and remembrance become profound. For the Morelands, Memorial Day was the most important family gathering of the year.

The day before, under the watchful eye of my grandparents, we would go out to the cemetery and carefully trim the grass, straighten up the small US flags identifying the boys as war veterans and place fresh peonies from the garden in front of their tombstone. The next day, we were out early and on our way back to the cemetery so we could be in the front row for the remembrance ceremony.

The 21-gun salute would ring across the gentle hills and tears would be shed. And rightly so.

A few years ago, my wife and I had the privilege of visiting the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial next to Omaha Beach. We touched the boys’ names on the Wall of the Missing, walked on the sands they never reached and looked out over the waves that cover their watery graves.

I left knowing I could never live up to my namesake, but could only pledge to honor their lives and sacrifices in some small way.

In whatever your walk of life, I hope you will take pause in your own way to honor the boys, their fallen comrades who literally stood beside them and the many who have joined their hallowed ranks in the 61 years since.

For them, celebrate the liberties we all too often take for granted. As importantly, particularly in this holiday season, remember their families; many with scarred wounds decades old and some with fresh wounds still healing, as they face another day, like the Moreland family, forever changed.

News

Pharmacy announces formulary changes

Some medicines only available off base under new co-pay structure

Pharmacy officials in the 12th Medical Group announced this week changes to the formulary and co-pay structure for prescriptions filled off base.

The change that will affect most beneficiaries is the movement of some medications to “non-formulary” status, meaning they will only be available by making a co-payment at off-base pharmacies.

The pharmacy has alternative drugs on formulary to replace the medications put on non-formulary status, said Capt. Heather Fenzl, 12th MDG pharmacist.

She emphasized that all medications dispensed at military treatment facility pharmacies are still at no cost to active duty members, retirees and eligible family members. Military members can also receive non-formulary drugs if a medical necessity is approved.

Retirees and family members can get non-formulary drugs through the National Mail Order Pharmacy and at civilian pharmacies, such as Walgreens and CVS, with the following co-pay amounts: generic, \$3; formulary, \$9; and non-formulary, \$22.

Non-formulary medications are available for retirees and family members at only a \$9 co-payment if the military provider prescribes the medication and a medical necessity is approved for the medication.

Some of these non-formulary medications are Altace, Norvasc, Flomax, Nexium, Cialis and Viagra.

While those medicines are out, the following drugs have been added to the formulary: Lisinopril/HCTZ,

“These formulary changes are important for both the active duty and retiree populations. Retirees, especially, need to inform their civilian providers of the medications currently stocked or “on formulary” at Randolph.”

Capt. Heather Fenzl
12th Medical Group pharmacist

Uroxatral, Zyrtec and Zetia.

The changes are the result of a review by the Department of Defense Pharmacy & Therapeutics committee. The group evaluates both clinical and cost effectiveness of prescription medications. Medications that are equally effective but cost more compared to other drugs in the same class may be recommended for placement in the non-formulary category, Captain Fenzl said.

Prescription drugs at medical treatment facilities are dispensed in accordance with the TRICARE Uniform Formulary Final Rule announced in April 2004.

The rule outlines requirements for a formulary process and co-payment structure called the Uniform Formulary under the direction of the 2000

National Defense Authorization Act, Section 701, The Pharmacy Benefits Program.

Military treatment facilities are prohibited from having medications designated as non-formulary on their formularies. Therefore, at Randolph, no new prescriptions will be accepted for these medications unless medical necessity is established by a military provider, Captain Fenzl said.

“These formulary changes are important for both the active duty and retiree populations,” she said. “Retirees, especially, need to inform their civilian providers of the medications currently stocked or “on formulary” at Randolph.”

While active duty members do not have to pay for medications, their prescription drugs may be switched to medications available on the formulary, the captain said.

People can get a listing of formulary medications at the pharmacy or on the Web at www.pharmacyone-source.com/fos/default.asp?L=67891&g=1.

Captain Fenzl said she expects 16 other drugs to be classified as non-formulary in the next few months, and the pharmacy will announce when that occurs.

The Randolph pharmacy is also trying to mirror Wilford Hall Medical Center in terms of formulary changes and phasing out of non-formulary medications, Captain Fenzl added.

For more information about non-formulary medications and alternatives to these medications, visit www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/medical-nonformulary.cfm or call the Randolph pharmacy at 652-4127.



Ensign Andrew Brown
P-3
NAS Jacksonville, Fla.



Ensign Jaime Cox
P-3
NAS Jacksonville, Fla.



2nd Lt. Laura Haverly
C-130
Little Rock AFB, Ark.



2nd Lt. Jared Hawkins
C-130H
179th Airlift Squadron, Ohio



2nd Lt. Adam Jones
B-52 (EWO)
Barksdale AFB, La.



2nd Lt. John Jones
EC-130
Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Aaron McNeill
AC-130 (EWO)
Hurlburt Field, Fla.



2nd Lt. Michael Middents
B-52 (EWO)
Barksdale AFB, La.



Lt. Jeffery Orr
P-3
NAS Jacksonville, Fla.



2nd Lt. Justin Rupe
HC-130
Moody AFB, Ga.



Ensign Tracy Spring
P-3
NAS Jacksonville, Fla.



2nd Lt. Matthew Struthers
MC-130P
Eglin AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Samphun Tobler
AC-130 (EWO)
Hurlburt Field, Fla.



Ensign Daniel Weston
E6B
Tinker AFB, Okla.

NEWS BRIEFS

Blood drive today at AFPC

The Lackland Air Force Base Blood Donor Center holds a blood drive here today to support the Keesler AFB Blood Donor Center, which is still not operational because of hurricane damage. The blood drive is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Air Force Personnel Center conference reception area in Building 499.

AETC commander's call

Gen. William Looney III will hold two commander's call sessions for the Air Education and Training Command headquarters staff on Jan. 6 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the base theater. Enlisted, officer and civilian members should attend at their designated time based on the office symbols listed below. Commander's Calls are mandatory for military members.

9:30 a.m.: CC, CV, DS, HO, CE, DO, DP, SV, HC, FM, SE, PA, AFOMS
1:30 p.m.: JA, LG, SC, SE, SG, IG, XP, RF, AFSAT

Due to limited parking at the theater, people are encouraged to carpool, walk or take the shuttle bus to the commander's call sessions. Buses will pick people up at Building 900 and Hangar 13 starting at 8:30 a.m. for the morning session and 12:30 p.m. for the afternoon session and will return from the base theater after commander's call.

Civilian sexual assault training

The base sexual assault program office offers a training program for civilians. Two one-hour sessions take place each of the following days in the base theater at 8:30 and 10 a.m.: Dec. 19 and 20, Jan. 4, 5, 9, 10, 11 and 13.
For reservations, call 652-4386.

Legal office closure, hours

The 12th Flying Training Wing Judge Advocate office is closed Thursday at noon for a wing function.
The JA office customer service hours are:
Legal assistance: weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Notary services and powers of attorney: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Legal assistance appointments: Monday-Wednesday scheduled one week in advance
Walk-in legal assistance: Thursday from 8:30 to 10 a.m.
For information, call 652-6781.
Claims office hours: weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Initial notification of damage (DD Form 1840R): 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Claim-filing appointments: Monday-Tuesday
For information, call 652-3110.

Vehicle operations closings

The Randolph vehicle operations element is closed for the holidays as follows: Dec. 24-26, and Dec 31 through Jan. 2. Previously arranged transportation and emergency mission requirements will be supported. To leave a message during closed hours, call 652-3477 or 652-6609. For emergency transportation, call the wing command center at 652-1859.

Savings bonds verification

Officials from 12th Comptroller Squadron recommend people currently receiving savings bonds to check them monthly to ensure the beneficiary and amount are as intended.
To update bond information, visit finance customer service in Building 399.

CSO graduation today

By Armando Perez
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Fourteen Air Force and Navy aviators receive their navigator and naval flight officer wings during a Combat Systems Officer course graduation today at 10 a.m. in the officers' club.
Col. Richard Clark, 12th Flying Training Wing vice commander, will present the graduates their wings, as well as class awards to the top graduates.
Brig. Gen. Richard Perraut, Air Education and Training Command director of plans and programs, is the guest speaker. The AETC plans and programs staff develops the command's Program Objective Memorandum for funding all command programs and the Base Realignment and Closure process, supports acquisition of command flying and technical training requirements, weapon and information systems, training devices and

major weapon system modifications, and provides analytical support for efforts resolving current and future command issues.
General Perraut graduated from the Air Force Academy with his commission and a bachelor's degree in engineering mechanics in 1977. He has served on a variety of operational, staff and command positions from serving on the Air and Joint Staff to commanding a flying squadron, support group, air base wing and expeditionary mobility task force.
In support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, General Perraut was deployed as the director of mobility forces.
Prior to becoming the AETC director of plans and programs, he was commander of the 15th Expeditionary Mobility Task Force at Travis AFB, Calif., and the director of mobility forces for Combined Forces Command in South Korea.

Airmen graduate from ALS

By Armando Perez
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Fifteen senior airmen graduated from the Randolph Airmen Leadership School Tuesday.
Senior Airman Madelyn Waychoff of the Air Force Recruiting Service received the John L. Levitow Award as the overall top graduate.
Senior Airman Jeffrey Jordan from Air Education and Training Command received both the Distinguished Graduate and Leadership awards.
Senior Airman Steven Williams of the 147th Mission Support Squadron from the Air National Guard at Ellington Field in Houston received the Academic Achievement Award.
Other graduates are Senior Airmen Michael Garrett from 12th Security Forces Squadron, Jessica Cragg and Brandon Collins from AETC, Zachariah Coyner of the 12th Medical Group, Winter Dix and Devynne Herbert from the Air Force Personnel Center, Regina Green

ALS Award Winners

- John L. Levitow Award
Senior Airman Madelyn Waychoff
Air Force Recruiting Service
- Distinguished Graduate and Leadership Award
Senior Airman Jeffrey Jordan
Air Education and Training Command
- Academic Achievement Award
Senior Airman Steven Williams
147th Mission Support Squadron,
Air National Guard,
Ellington Field, Houston

from the Joint Personal Property Shipping Office, Brandi Kelley of the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute, Gentry Koepp from the Air Force Manpower Agency, Jonathon McKnight of the 12th Mission Support Group and Jesus Reyes of

the 12th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron.
The graduation banquet for class 06-1 was attended by 130 guests at the enlisted club. Guest speaker for the event was retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Robert D. Gaylor.
ALS is the first professional military education course Airmen complete. It prepares senior airmen for their future duties as noncommissioned officers. The Airmen completed 24 academic days consisting of 192 hours of instruction in three areas of curriculum: communication, skills, leadership and management, and the profession of arms.
During the class, students had an opportunity to demonstrate their teamwork when they performed a flag-folding ceremony for veterans at the Esplanade Gardens Assisted Living Center and were able to march in the Universal City Veterans Day parade with the Air Force Sergeant's Association.

Booming business



This tail section of an air refueling KC-135 fuselage arrived here at Hangar 84 Dec. 8 for development of a Boom Operator Weapon System Trainer. The section is from a decommissioned aircraft at the Air Force's "bone yard" in Arizona. The Trainer Development Division of the 12th Mission Support Group will transform the "boomer's" station into a high fidelity trainer to support boom operator training at Altus AFB, Okla. This major project will involve development of two training systems over the next three years. (Photo by James Huron)

Alamo Travel Group named new CTO

By James Williams
12th Logistics Readiness Division

Effective Jan. 1, the Alamo Travel Group, Inc. will replace N&N Travel as the new commercial travel office contractor for Randolph.

Alamo Travel will provide such services as airline, hotel and rental car reservations for government official travel.

In addition, the staff will have the capability to check on such items as current reservations, flight times and

schedules, per diem rates and seat assignments.

The Alamo Travel customer service office will be collocated with the traffic management flight in room 117 of Pitsenbarger Hall, Building 399.

The Air Force Personnel Center will no longer have a commercial travel office.

The Reunion Office, a satellite office run by the CTO, however, will have limited services. The office is located downtown with the Air Force Services Agency.

People at Randolph have several options for making official travel reservations and securing ticketing from their offices. These options include online, e-mail, telephone, facsimile or e-ticketing. People can submit a one-time government travel profile that will be used each time they request travel.

The contact number for the Alamo Travel Reservation Center is 659-7707. The fax number for submitting travel orders and other information is 652-6381.

The after-hours contact number is

(866) 580-1420. All reservations made previously with N&N Travel will be transferred to Alamo Travel starting Jan. 1.

If possible, passengers departing the first week in January should pick up their tickets before Dec. 23.

Alamo Travel was established in 1982 in San Antonio. Since 1982, it has expanded to become a nationwide provider of corporate, leisure, and government travel services.

For more information, call 652-2882 or visit www.alamotravel.com.

Thunderbirds need dedicated volunteers

By Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen
Thunderbirds Public Affairs

The United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron is looking for professionals to join an elite team known world-wide for precision flying and community involvement.

Volunteers are needed in eight career fields.

"The Thunderbirds have more than 34 career fields represented in the squadron," said Chief Master Sgt. Ted Field, chief enlisted manager of the Thunderbirds. "We have a job for just about everyone out there."

The Air Force Specialty Codes needed are 2A3X2 Avionics, 2A3X3B Crew Chief, 2A6X3 Egress, 2A6X4 Fuels, 2A6X6 Electro/Environmental, 2A7X3 Structures, 3N0X1 Public Affairs, 3V0X1 Graphic Artist and 8F000 First Sergeant.

For information on the application process, visit www.airforce.com/thunderbirds.

"Even if (a) career field is not listed, we are

accepting applications," Chief Field said. "Anyone can submit an application for a job in one of the (34) career fields we have. We'll keep the application on file for six months, and if a job comes open we will look at the applications we have and we'll try to fill them with those."

One of the common misconceptions about the Thunderbirds is the team is gone all the time.

"We do travel across the United States and in some cases across the world," Chief Field said. "But we're not gone all the time. We have a good amount of time at home, but we do travel."

During the season, a typical week begins on Thursday when the team travels to its show site. Pilots fly their aircraft and support personnel typically travel in a C-17. As soon as the jets touch down, technicians recover their aircraft and perform post-flight tasks. Meanwhile, public affairs prepares for enlistment and re-enlistment ceremonies, media interviews and orientation flights.

Communications specialists videotape the arrival

and landing. The advance pilot, having arrived the day before, briefs the team on subjects including transportation and the weather.

Friday is usually a practice day, giving the Thunderbird pilots an opportunity to become familiar with the terrain and local landmarks. Crew chiefs and their assistants attend to pre-flight tasks.

After the practice flight, the team meets with members of the community whose special needs might prevent them from attending a crowded show. On Saturday and Sunday, the team flies its full show and meets with the crowd to sign autographs for 20 minutes.

On Monday, the team heads back to Nellis AFB, Nev., then goes back to work Tuesday.

"It seems really busy, and to some extent it is, but the people you get to meet with on the road make it all worthwhile," Chief Field said.

"The bottom line is an assignment to the Thunderbirds is the chance of a lifetime," the chief said.

Chapel sets holiday worship schedule

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

The members of the Randolph Chapel staff invite the base community to join them in their holiday worship celebrations.

Several observances take place between Wednesday and Jan. 1.

“Christmas is a wonderful time of year where Christians from nearly every denomination celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Valentino McNeal, senior Protestant chaplain. “It’s a time for Christians of every walk of life to come together to celebrate a time of peace, hope and love, but more importantly, to be peace-makers, hope-givers and love-spreaders.”

This year is unique for the Protestant chapel community, which will have a combined Christmas Eve Unity Service and a combined Christmas Day Service, Chaplain McNeal said. The three Protestant worship expressions -- traditional, contemporary and gospel -- will worship together with a combined choir singing songs of worship from each type of service.

In order to give as many people as possible, including friends and families visiting from out of town, the opportunity to attend the ceremonies, the Christmas Eve and day services will be held in the theater, the chaplain said. The Christmas Eve service includes a communion service and a “Taking the Light

out into the World” demonstration.

The Chapel’s New Year’s Eve Watchnight celebration is a time for families and friends to worship together while bringing in the new year.

“Our Watchnight celebration is a time for everyone to thank the Lord for another year in their own special way,” Chaplain McNeal said. “Some people sing a song, recite a poem, dance or give words of thanks and encouragement.”

The highlight of the celebration happens at midnight, when families and friends stand, hold hands and pray for God’s blessings during the new year, he said.

The Catholic community hosts its traditional Christmas Eve and Christmas day Masses. The children’s Christmas Eve program tells the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, and the children’s choir performs the songs.

New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day follows the regular Mass schedule.

Throughout the year, the chapel staff looks for opportunities to reach the base’s dorm residents and the base active duty members and their families who don’t usually attend base or local chapel services.

“We want to invite them to become part of our chapel family,” Chaplain McNeal said. “So during this holiday season, we are sending a special invitation to them to join us during our holiday services.”

The chapel staff encourages everyone to

Holiday Worship Schedule

Catholic

Dec. 21 - Penance Service, 7 p.m. in chapel 2

Dec. 24 - Children’s Mass, 5 p.m. in chapel 2

Midnight Mass, Midnight in chapel 2

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Masses, 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. in chapel 2

Dec. 31 - New Year’s Eve Mass, 5:30 p.m. in chapel 1


Jan. 1 - Mary, Mother of God Masses, 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. in chapel 2

Protestant

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m. in base theater

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Service, 9:30 a.m. in base theater

Dec. 31 - New Year’s Eve Watchnight, 10 p.m. in chapel 1



celebrate in a safe manner.

“We wish you a merry Christmas, blessed Hanukkah, happy Kwanza, happy New Year and a joyous holiday season,” Chaplain McNeal said.

For more information on the chapel’s observances, call 652-6121.

TSP begins catch-up contributions for 2006

Air Force Personnel Center officials recently announced the procedures civilians and military members can follow to submit their 2006 thrift savings plan catch-up contributions.

Civilians can use the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team automated systems for catch-up contribution enrollment.

Military members will be able to enroll in January.

Catch-up contributions are additional tax-deferred contributions, separate from regular TSP contributions.

"Catch-up contributions are a good way for individuals to secure their retirement if they began investing late in life," said Ms. Janet Thomas, a human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center.

To be eligible for catch-up contributions, civilian and military employees must be age 50 or older in the year in which the first deduction from pay occurs, be in a pay status, and must be able to certify that they will make (or have made) the maximum

"regular" TSP employee contributions of \$15,000 by the end of 2006. They must contribute the full \$15,000 since regular employee contributions are no longer limited to a set percentage each pay period. However, if the employee is contributing -- or has contributed -- to both a civilian and uniformed services TSP account or another eligible employer plan (for example, another 401(k) plan) and the combined contributions would cause the employee to reach the \$15,000 elective deferral limit the employee would be eligible to make catch-up contributions.

They also must not be in the six-month non-contribution period following a financial hardship in-service withdrawal.

Catch-up contributions have their own IRS annual limit that is separate from the annual limit for regular TSP contributions. The maximum catch-up contribution for 2006 is \$5,000; while the IRS annual elective deferral limit for "regular" TSP contributions will be \$15,000.

Catch-up contributions will automatically stop with the last pay date in the calendar year or upon reaching the maximum catch-up dollar limit for the year, whichever comes first. Because the IRS annual elective deferral limit for catch-up contributions changes each year, participants must submit a new election each year.

Civilian

- Enrollments submitted between Dec.11-24 will be effective Dec. 25, with the first contribution deducted from their Jan. 13 pay. Subsequent enrollments will be effective at the beginning of the next pay period.
- When making a contribution election, employees need to designate a whole-dollar amount to contribute each pay day rather than the annual maximum of \$5,000. Employees should not designate an amount that exceeds their net pay or payroll will not withhold any TSP contributions. Employees wanting to spread their contributions evenly over the year will divide their total contribution (up to

the \$5,000 maximum) by the number of pay dates remaining in the year. There are 26 pay dates in 2006 for employees who submit their election Dec. 11-24.

- Eligible Air Force-serviced civilian employees may enroll for catch-up contributions via the Employee Benefits Information System Web application or the BEST phone system. EBIS is available on the web at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcs/secure/default.asp> or through the AF Portal at <http://www.my.af.mil>.
- Employees may reach the BEST phone system toll-free at(800) 616-3775.
- Additional information on the TSP Catch-Up contribution program is available on the BEST Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/menu.htm under "Thrift Savings Plan," and the TSP Web site at www.tsp.gov.

Military

- Catch-up contributions can be made at local military personnel flights, and finance offices by filling out a Form TSP-U-1-C.

Retiree statements, tax forms due in December

Retired and annuitant account statements and 1099-R tax statements will be mailed throughout the latter half of December.

Hoping to eliminate problems encountered last year, DFAS officials remind pay recipients that the account statement and tax form will be mailed in the same envelope. Last year, many people failed to notice and then complained to DFAS they had not received the 1099.

For retirees, the RAS will reflect changes due to the cost-of-living increase, the Veterans Administration legislative increase and changes to the federal income tax withholding rates.

Due to the VA legislative increase, recipients of Combat Related Special Compensation will also receive an increase to their CRSC amount. This amount will affect the December 2005 entitlement scheduled for the payment on Jan. 3 and will be reflected on the CRSC pay statement available to retirees on myPay. Retirees who do not have a myPay account will not receive a CRSC pay statement.

As a result of the phased-in Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay, the amount retirees will receive for CRDP will increase effective January and will be reflected in the payment dated Feb.1.

DFAS starts retired pay newsletter

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's Retired and Annuity Pay staff has created a new retired pay newsletter that is published periodically and covers topics of interest to military retirees and annuitants.

The newsletter is available via the DFAS myPay website at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>, and it is sent to each customer with an active myPay e-mail account.

Airmen train Iraqi NCOs in security measures

By Master Sgt. Randy Mitchell
447th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AFPN) – Security forces pride themselves on making a good first impression for base visitors. Now they are instilling that same pride and professionalism in Iraqi Airmen.

Three Air Force security forces members are training the Iraqi protection force that will ultimately inherit security operations at New Al Muthana Air Base here.

The Airmen have been training their Iraqi counterparts for two months, said Tech. Sgt. Jared P. Skinner, NCO in charge of security operations at the base.

“We have been primarily training Iraqi enlisted members to develop the mid-level NCOs to perform flight sergeant and shift supervisor duties,” Sergeant Skinner said. “Using the train-the-trainer philosophy these NCOs will be responsible for training new security recruits assigned to the base.”

He said the training is necessary since the Iraqis have no experience in static base defense or providing security for base resources such as aircraft.

“The Iraqis are very eager to learn,” he said. “Our tactics, techniques and procedures have encouraged a completely different way of approaching security.”

Most of training has been focused on protecting base assets since New Al Muthana is currently the only Iraqi air base and will be home to the Iraqi 23rd Airlift Squadron and their three C-130E Hercules aircraft.

“The 23rd is currently in training status at Ali Air Base,” said Capt. Jerry Ruiz, the forward operations executive officer at New Al Muthana. “They will move to their new home here in January.”

The training here is just one part of training taking place that covers a full-spectrum of base support, Sergeant Skinner said.

“U.S. trainers are deployed here at New Al Muthana to cover the full spectrum of a mission support group,” he said. “We have security forces, vehicle operations, civil engineering, communications, as well as a medical technician training their counterparts.”

Sergeant Skinner got this job based on his background. He was a heavy weapons trainer for security forces before becoming an action officer at Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson

Air Force Base, Ohio.

Two other Air Force defenders make up the three-man team in charge of getting the Iraqi protection force up-to-speed. Capt. Greg Holmgren is the senior base defense unit advisor. Tech. Sgt. Michael Marzec is the base defense unit training advisor.

Sergeant Marzec, deployed from the 30th Security Forces Squadron at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., said he sees the mission as an opportunity to teach the best Air Force security forces practices to the Iraqi military.

“I see our efforts paying off as Iraqi officers and NCOs learn how and why the Air Force operates within the framework of our core values,” said Captain Holmgren, the operations officer for the 374th Security Forces Squadron at Yokota Air Base, Japan. “That is never more evident than when these two outstanding NCOs are teaching their skills to the Iraqi forces.”

Sergeant Skinner said, “I have been an instructor for most of my Air Force life. You really have to capture the Iraqi trainees’ attention at times. So having that experience has definitely made this more of a manageable task.”

The 10-year Air Force veteran welcomed the chance to help develop the Iraqi security force corps.

“However, the progress we have made here is something to be proud of,” he said.

The security forces team arrived in September, while the base was still a construction site.

“We spent the first month or so conducting vulnerability assessments and executing force protection improvements in order to provide a secure environment in which to train,” Sergeant Skinner said.

There have been several challenges along the way, he said. One was learning to communicate effectively with the trainees.

“We primarily use an interpreter during training,” he said. “However, we make a conscience effort to engage in language training with the Iraqis. Their English is coming along much better than my Arabic.”

The largest hurdle has been developing self-confidence in the enlisted ranks, Sergeant Skinner said. During Saddam’s reign, the gap between enlisted men and officers was tremendous -- there wasn’t any respect for the enlisted corps.

“The biggest challenge though has been preparing the enlisted for the responsibility they are about to accept,” he said. “Enabling them to



Tech. Sgt. Jared Skinner instructs Iraqi protection force trainees on search techniques. (Photo by Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell)

accept delegation has been tough.

But the gag is beginning to close, he said.

“The Iraqis here see the responsibility our enlisted Airmen possess and they mimic that behavior,” he said. “It’s very encouraging.”

The senior military advisor to the base believes it is imperative that they do not fail in their mission at New Al Muthana.

“The future of Iraq depends on it building back its airpower,” said Lt. Col. Michael Mawson, a New Hampshire guardsman. “To do this they need to have strong and efficient security forces guarding their bases. The security trainers are doing an outstanding job in shaping the future Iraqi security forces.”

The colonel said, “There are no other Iraqi Air Force base defense units. This is their first. Sergeants Skinner and Marzec and Captain Holmgren are setting the standard for how future Iraqi security forces will perform their mission.”

Sergeant Skinner said the Airmen are trying to build a successful and sustainable training model for the new Iraqi Air Force.

“Hopefully, all of the training, mentoring and advising will help create a capable and independent force for Iraq long after we’re gone,” he said.

(The author, Sergeant Mitchell, is deployed from Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs)

Community

Put safety first in road-trip plan

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

During the holiday season, many people will take trips to visit family and friends.

With vehicle travel, comes safety issues everyone should heed, according to 12th Flying Training Wing safety officials.

“Going on a road trip requires planning,” said Staff Sgt. Jeff Linville, safety office.

With fuel prices constantly going up and down lately, it is a good idea to remember some fuel-saving tips.

According to the Car Care Council Web site, www.carcarecouncil.org, about 17 percent of the vehicles driving on the roads have gas caps that are damaged or missing. This causes 147 million gallons of gas to vaporize annually. It is a good idea to check the gas cap on the vehicle before planning a long road trip.

Under-inflated tires are another hazard. When tires aren’t inflated properly, it can be like driving with the parking brake on, costing one to two miles per gallon over normal use, according to the Web site.

Dirty air filters are another cause of fuel waste. Replacing a filter that is clogged can improve gas mileage by as much as 10 percent, saving about 20 cents per gallon.

Drivers should pay attention to the way they are driving, which can also save fuel.

Aggressive driving, for example, can lower gas mileage by as much as 33 percent on the highway. Excessive idling can also cost a vehicle fuel. Letting the



Before his holiday travels, Kenneth Hall adds a water and anti-freeze mixture to his radiator to winterize his pickup truck at the auto skills center Dec. 9. (Photo by Richard McFadden)

vehicle warm up for a few minutes is sufficient, according to the Web site.

Speeding is another cause of wasted fuel. Gas mileage decreases a lot at speeds above 60 mph. Each mile per hour a driver travels over 60 mph costs an additional 10 cents per gallon for the extra fuel the car is using, according to the Car Care Council. When available, cruise control can help conserve fuel.

“Besides wasting gas, it is not a good idea to speed when traveling because it can be dangerous,” Sergeant Linville said. “Drivers should also watch out for other

drivers who are in a hurry or speeding. If they seem to be in a hurry, the best thing to do is get out of their way and let them pass.”

A 10-minute pre-trip checkup can be helpful before taking off down the road.

All fluids, such as the antifreeze, engine oil, power steering, brake and transmission fluids, and windshield washer solvent should be checked before hitting the road, according to the Web site.

Hoses and belts should also be checked. Tires should have the right amount of pressure, and be checked for uneven wear on the tread.

These quick check-ups are important, as the weather may be bad or become worse when driving to a destination.

“People traveling to places where the weather is bad, or may become bad, should have extra blankets and water in case they do get caught in a storm,” Sergeant Linville said. “Not only will their car be running well, but they will have supplies in case they need them.”

People should check weather conditions before leaving, and if they are dangerous, such as icy roads, they should consider putting off their trip until it is safe to drive, Sergeant Linville said.

“Getting the right amount of rest, as well, is the most important detail to pay attention to before traveling a long distance in a car,” the sergeant said. “Always stop if you feel tired, because getting to your destination late is better than not getting there at all.”

For more information, call the safety office at 652-2224 or visit www.carcarecouncil.org.

Picking up poultry



Patrick and Jaimie Hawthorn select a turkey for their Christmas holiday meal in the newly remodeled Randolph commissary. The commissary is open Dec. 24 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. The store will return to normal hours Dec. 26. (Photo by Bob Hieronymus)

All that glitters

Holiday season abounds with recycling opportunities

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Holiday celebrations offer fun times for family and friends, but they also pile up the trash. That’s why it’s a good idea to reduce the amount of waste and recycle after a party. If hosting a party, try to use cloth napkins and reusable dishes, glasses and silverware, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. This will reduce the amount of waste after the meal. If providing guests with aluminum or plastic beverage containers, show them

where to recycle these items so they don’t throw them away. “Recycling is always a good idea,” said Anthony Martinez, 12th Civil Engineer Division pollution prevention programs manager. “The holidays offer a lot of opportunities for recycling, with the volume of plastic and packaging used for events such as parties.” From a recycling point of view, it’s better not to use the throw-away plastic utensils and plates, Mr. Martinez added. Cloth napkins, reusable utensils and plates are the most environmentally friendly because nothing goes in the trash with these items.

“Plastic and paper are easy to clean up after, so they become a frequent choice for parties and get-togethers,” Mr. Martinez said. “So if you do decide to use throwaway items, be sure to look for items that are recyclable and make provisions at your party for separating them.” Having separate containers for recycling will also make it easier on the host when cleaning up, Mr. Martinez added. After a party, items such as empty glass and plastic jars, milk jugs, coffee cans or dairy tubs can be washed and re-used for storage, according to the EPA. These containers can be used to

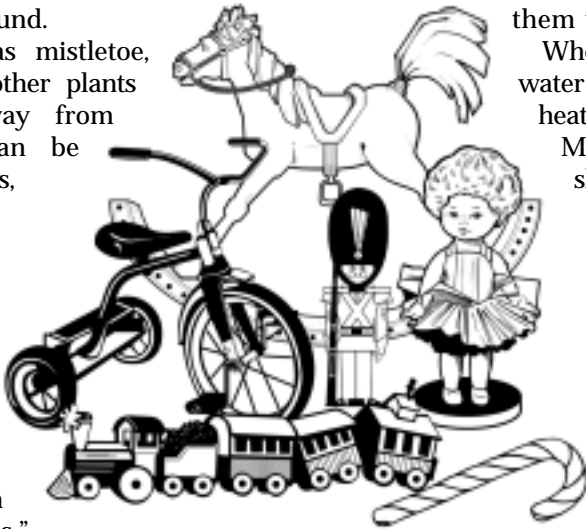
store loose items such as nails and buttons. When buying items for a party, it is a good idea to get items in bulk or in refillable containers, according to the EPA. Many items for parties are available in these sizes, and this helps reduce package waste. When the party ends, there is usually food left over. “A good way to get rid of a lot of left over food is to share it with friends and family,” Mr. Martinez said. “Any food that was not used at all can be donated to a homeless shelter.” For more information, call 652-4668 or visit www.epa.gov.

Keep children safe this holiday season

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

The holidays can be a fun time for the whole family, especially the little ones. It is important for parents to make sure their children are kept safe when it comes to decorating for Christmas. “Children are natural explorers,” said Linda Loskota, training and curriculum specialist at the Randolph Child Development Center. “They will touch things, put them in their mouths, and are unaware of the hazards associated with this. Parents have the responsibility to keep them safe.” Tree ornaments, light bulbs, small toys and icicle decorations are choking hazards for small children because they can block their airways, according to the Kids Health Web site. The general rule that parents should follow is that if the object is small enough to fit in the child’s mouth, then it is too small for them

to play with or be around. Decorations such as mistletoe, holly, poinsettias or other plants should be kept away from children as they can be potentially poisonous, according to the Web site. “Make sure the decorations you use are lead free,” Ms. Loskota said. “Unbreakable ornaments should be used, as well as miniature lights which have cool-burning bulbs.” Plastic or wooden ornaments are best to use when decorating, Ms. Loskota said. If ornaments do break, it is important to clean



them up as quickly as possible. When using a real tree, people should water it daily and keep it away from floor heaters, fireplaces and other heat sources, Ms. Loskota added. Artificial trees should be fire-retardant. Trees should be secured in a sturdy stand so they won’t tip over and can’t be knocked over accidentally by children, according to Kids Health. Candles should be extinguished when leaving a room or the house, according to Kids Health. Candles should be kept away from windows and mantles, as they could be knocked over. Lights should always be turned off before leaving the home or going to bed. For more information, call 652-4946 or visit www.kidshealth.org.

Services announces holiday events

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

The base celebrates the holidays with a variety of events. The enlisted club kicks off its celebrations with a children’s Christmas party Sunday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the ballroom. The annual party is hosted by the Air Force Sergeants’ Association. The party is for the children of enlisted club members up to the age of 12. Activities, snacks and prizes are planned. A membership appreciation Christmas party takes place Dec. 22 from 4-7 p.m. Food, drink specials and music are featured. The event is free for members and \$10 for guests. The enlisted club hosts a New Year’s Eve party Dec. 31. Members can either choose the Nite Club package or the Ballroom package. “The party will be part of an unforgettable night,” said Marilyn Gove, enlisted club manager. “Lodging reservations can also be made at the time of reserving tables. The club can provide transportation to and from the party if necessary.” For more information on the packages and costs or for more information on other club events, call 652-3056. The club is open Jan. 1 for football game viewing. The officers’ club holds a New Year’s Eve party Dec. 31. Members can choose the Sky Lounge package or the Ballroom package. “Randolph’s Officers’ Club should be your first choice for fun this holiday season,” said Juan Conde, officers’ club

manager. “We offer a convenient and pleasant environment. Instead of going off base and paying more, members can come here, spend less, and have more fun.” For details on the packages and prices, call 652-4864. On Dec. 25, the dining facility serves two Christmas day meals: a breakfast from 7-8 a.m. and a Christmas dinner from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. All active duty and retired officers, enlisted members and their families are welcome to attend. “I encourage members to come out and enjoy both meals at the dining facility,” said Frank Anderson, food service officer. The bowling center offers several holiday specials. On Dec. 24, the bowling center opens from noon to 4 p.m. For \$6 per person, customers can bowl as many games as they like, while enjoying the Thunder Alley music and light show. Shoe rental is included. On Dec. 26 from 1-8 p.m., a family of four can bowl two games with shoe rentals and get a large pizza and large sodas all for \$30. The price can be adjusted based on family size. From Dec. 27-30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., customers can bowl for \$1.50 per game, per person and get shoe rentals for \$1.50. On New Year’s Eve, the Thunder Alley music and light show takes place from 1-6 p.m. with unlimited bowling for \$6 per person. Adults can celebrate the beginning of a new year at the bowling center Dec. 31 starting at 9 p.m. Three games of Colorama Bowling, a glass of champagne and breakfast cost \$25 per person. Reservations are required. For more information on the bowling events, call 652-6271.

Holiday Hours

- **Airmen Dining Facility**
Dec. 24: Brunch, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Dinner 4-6 p.m.
Dec. 25: Breakfast, 7 a.m.; Lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Arts & Craft Center**
Dec. 24-26 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
Dec. 31: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Auto Skills Center**
Dec. 24: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
Dec. 31: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- **Bowling Center**
Dec. 24: noon to midnight
Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 2: Closed
Dec. 31: noon to 8 p.m.
Jan. 1: 4-11 p.m.
- **Canyon Lake**
Dec. 24: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
Dec. 31: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Child Development Center and Annex**
Dec. 24-26: Closed
Dec. 31 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
- **Enlisted Club**
Dec. 24: Gil's Pub, noon to 6 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
Dec. 31: Gil's Pub, noon to 6 p.m.; doors open at 7 p.m. for New Year’s Eve party
- **Officers’ Club**
Dec. 19-30 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
Dec. 31: Door open at 6:30 p.m. for reservations-only New Year’s Eve party
- **Family Child Care Office**
Dec. 24-26: Closed
Dec. 31 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
- **Fitness Center**
Dec 23: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 24: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Dec. 25: Closed
Dec. 30: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Jan. 1-2: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Golf Course**
Dec. 24: 8 a.m. shotgun start; pro shop closes at 1 p.m.; snack bar closed
Dec. 25: Closed
Dec. 31: 6 a.m. to dusk
Jan. 1: 8 a.m. shotgun start; pro shop closes at 1 p.m.; snack bar closed
- **Human Resources Office**
Dec. 24-26: Closed
Dec. 31 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
- **ITT/Equipment Checkout**
Dec. 24-26: Closed
Dec. 31 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
- **Library**
Dec. 24-26: Closed
Dec. 31 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
- **Skeet Range**
Dec. 24: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
Dec. 31: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Wood Skills Center**
Dec. 24: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
Dec. 31: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- **Veterinary Clinic**
Dec. 24-26: Closed
Dec. 31 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
- **Youth Center**
Dec. 24: 1-5 p.m.
Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2: Closed
Dec. 31: 1-5 p.m.

Winter hampers asthma sufferers

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Asthma is a chronic lung disease, characterized by inflammation of the airways, that affects more than 17 million Americans, according to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. The inflammation causes the airways to become smaller, making it more difficult for air to move in and out of the lungs. This creates symptoms such as coughing, chest tightening, shortness of breath and wheezing. “Changes in the weather, as well as colds and the flu, can trigger asthma,” said Maj. (Dr.) Joshua Sacha, pediatric clinic doctor in the 12th Medical Group. “This can worsen asthma and the asthma symptoms.” Good hand washing techniques and other infection control measures are important during this time of year, Major Sacha added. Asthmatics are considered at high risk for severe illness and complications if they contract the flu, so asthmatics, as well as people who are in close contact with them, should get vaccinated. If asthmatics are outdoors in the cold weather, such as for exercise, they should take precautions, Major Sacha said. He recommends people wear temperature-appropriate clothing, such as a scarf, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. People can also wear a warming mask to cover their mouth and nose. Breathing through the mouth in cold,

dry air or prolonged strenuous activities such as exercising can increase the chance of exercise-induced asthma, according to the AAAAI. “A warming mask or scarf can help, since breathing through the nose is designed to warm and humidify the incoming air,” Major Sacha said. “If cold air is a severe trigger, then people should consider exercising indoors.” Other triggers asthmatics should be aware of are allergens such as mountain cedar, strong smells, exhaust and pollution, the major added. Smoking or being exposed to second-hand smoke can also trigger asthma attacks. For more information, visit the AAAAI Web site at www.aaaai.org or call the pediatric clinic at 652-2543.

20 YEARS
AGO

in the Wingspread

☆ After a record-smashing season of 9-0 in regular season play, the Randolph High School Ro-Hawks wrapped up the season with District 31AA, Bi-District and Area championships, but ended their quest for a state championship with a 44-28 loss to Shiner.

☆ The medical clinic appointment system staff reported it was receiving an average of 1,400 calls per day, half of them between 7 and 8 a.m. and another 300 during the second hour of the duty day. People calling for the Primary Care Clinic were experiencing as much as 20 minutes on hold waiting for their turn to talk to an appointment clerk. The suggestion was made that calling after 10 a.m. would greatly reduce the waiting time.

☆ Under an international exchange program, Capt. Kenshi Ochi of the Japanese Air Self Defense Force was

nearing the end of a two-year assignment here as chief of the 12th Field Maintenance Squadron’s propulsion branch. He oversaw the engine maintenance of Randolph’s assigned jet aircraft, a job similar to that which he performed in Japan before coming here.

☆ The 12th Civil Engineering office announced the major construction projects for 1986. They include an unaccompanied officers’ housing consisting of 80 rooms with kitchenettes and bathrooms, a new vehicle maintenance complex totaling 30,800 square feet, a religious education facility replacing the old World War II wooden building, relocation of the Four Seasons Shop at the main exchange, a new building for the Air Force Management and Engineering Agency, and a new medical clinic building.

100th Flying Training Squadron honors rich heritage



(Courtesy of the Library of Congress)

Original Tuskegee Airmen visit unit for look at today's operations

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

A descendent unit of an original Tuskegee squadron honored two of the original Tuskegee Airmen of World War II fame here Dec. 9 with a reception, static aircraft display, tour and luncheon. The members of the 100th Flying Training Squadron, one of two squadrons on Randolph with lineal ties to the original Tuskegee flying units, welcomed retired Lt. Col. Hiram Mann and Dr. Granville Coggs, both Army Air Corps pilots trained at Tuskegee Institute during the war.

The two Airmen started the day with an informal breakfast in the 99th Flying Training Squadron, the other squadron with Tuskegee lineage. Then they toured the 99th FTS's Tuskegee Heritage Hall and viewed the static display of the four aircraft the Air Force Reserve instructor pilots in the 100th FTS fly.

Junior ROTC cadets from Cypress Falls High School in Houston joined them at the static display and were excited about the unexpected opportunity to meet the Tuskegee Airmen.

Colonel Mann graduated from pilot training at Tuskegee Institute in June 1944. He was successful in winning a place in the program on his third application for the duty. He flew both P-47s and P-51s in combat from bases in Italy with the 100th Fighter Squadron.

He said that the P-47, being a heavier aircraft than the P-51, required more flying skill when strafing enemy targets at low altitude. "You really had to mentally stay ahead of that airplane to keep it under control when pulling out of a dive," he said.

He asked some of the pilots at the breakfast about modern bomb damage assessment methods. They replied with an explanation about state-of-the-art television imagery that can be received in the cockpit from remotely piloted vehicles.

"Our best BDA was using our own eyes to follow the tracer bullets into the targets," he said.

In the best tradition of fighter pilots, he used his hands to illustrate how he would maneuver into position for a strafing run.

Dr. Coggs was first trained as a B-25 bomber gunner, then bombardier and finally pilot. As was the case for all of the Tuskegee bomber pilots, the



Dr. Granville Coggs (left) and retired Lt. Col. Hiram Mann, both original Tuskegee Airmen, share a laugh about memories of flight training during World War II in the 99th Flying Training Squadron's Tuskegee Heritage Hall Dec. 9. (Photo by Steve White)

war was over before their units were ready for combat deployment.

"I didn't shoot at anybody and nobody shot at me," he said with a laugh.

Dr. Coggs used the GI bill to go back to college after the war, graduated from the University of Nebraska and was invited into the Phi Beta Kappa organization. He entered the medical profession, specializing in radiology, and at 80 years of age still serves as a staff radiologist at Brooke Army Medical Center.

In addition to many professional honors, he is proud of his accomplishments as a senior runner. At age 72, he started to run competitively and since then has won many gold and silver medals in the 400 and 1,500 meter runs for his age group. He wore his running shoes and one of his gold medals around his neck during the day's activities.

The highlight of the luncheon in the officers' club was an essay read by Cody Robinson, an elementary school student at Carver Academy in San Antonio and son of former San Antonio Spurs center David Robinson. The essay, written for a citizenship assignment, was about the example set by the Tuskegee Airmen.

Cody wrote that the heritage of their leadership, discipline and initiative serves as a model for the next generation of black Americans. He received squadron tokens of appreciation from Lt. Col. Robert Wittmann, 100th FTS commander.

Little noticed in the crowd attending the luncheon was another person with ties to the Tuskegee Airmen. Master Sgt. Vivien Knight of the 340th Flying Training Group is the daughter of Milford Craig, one of the 15,000 Airmen

Tuskegee History

On July 19, 1941, the Army Air Force began a program in Alabama to train black Americans as military pilots. Primary flight training was conducted by the Division of Aeronautics of Tuskegee Institute, the famed school of learning founded by Booker T. Washington in 1881.

Once a cadet completed primary training at Tuskegee's Moton Field, he was sent to nearby Tuskegee Army Air Field for completion of flight training and for transition to combat type aircraft.

The first classes of Tuskegee Airmen were trained to be fighter pilots for the famous 99th Fighter Squadron, slated for combat duty in North Africa. Additional pilots were assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group which flew combat along with the 99th Squadron from bases in Italy.

In September 1943, a twin-engine training program began at Tuskegee to provide bomber pilots. However, World War II ended before these men were able to get into combat.

By the end of the war, 992 men had graduated from pilot training at Tuskegee, and 450 were sent overseas for combat assignment. During the same period, about 150 of them lost their lives while in training or on combat missions.

Airmen also received aircrew and ground crew training at Tuskegee for such duties as flight engineers, gunners, mechanics and armorers. Others went to Texas and New Mexico for training as navigators and bombardiers.

(Courtesy of the Air Force Museum)

trained at Tuskegee Institute from 1941-1948 as aircrews and support personnel for the all-black units in the days of segregation.

In the question and answer period that followed the luncheon, the Tuskegee Airmen were asked how the legal segregation of the 1940s compared to the social segregation that replaced it.

"We still have a long ways to go, but the Tuskegee model showed that we could excel and meet the challenges of the day," Colonel Mann said. "Our example led the way to breaking old legal barriers and brought integration to our armed forces."

Both Tuskegee Airmen are actively involved in promoting Tuskegee heritage. They speak often to military and school groups around the nation about their experiences and encourage all young people to set high goals, regardless of their race.

It's an Honor

Busy Randolph ceremonial team seeks more members

By 2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Averaging more than 500 ceremonies a year, the Team Randolph Honor Guard remains one of the most highly demanded ceremonial details in the Air Force.

In addition to current demands, Master Sgt. Anthony Gardner, Randolph Honor Guard superintendent, predicts as much as a five-percent increase in honor guard service requests over the next few years.

He attributes the demand to an increase in funeral honors for a growing retiree population in the San Antonio area and the aging World War II veteran population.

"The demand for our services will never go away," Sergeant Gardner said.

The team's goal is to support every function requested. However, with the tremendous demand for the team's services and manning limitations at many Randolph units, some requests may not be supported without the addition of new members to the team, Sergeant Gardner said.

He's enthusiastic about the recruitment process and is proud of the team for the work they do representing the Air Force at on- and off-base functions.

The honor guard represents Randolph and the Air Force by providing military funeral honors and ceremonial details in a 48,000-square-mile area stretching across south and east Texas to the perimeters of Houston.

"I believe every active duty member should have some type of involvement in the honor guard, whether it's by encouraging those interested in joining, supporting a troop who participates or becoming a member themselves," he said.

The honor guard represents Randolph and the Air Force by providing military funeral honors and ceremonial details in a 48,000-square-mile area stretching across south and east Texas to the perimeters of Houston.

In addition to military funeral honors, the honor guard participates in ceremonial activities such as changes of command, senior-leader retirements and other events where they post the colors and perform other functions.

The Randolph Honor Guard is made up of enlisted and officer members who represent a wide variety of operational backgrounds from the host 12th Flying Training Wing and tenant units.

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With three flights of 22 people each, 66 people comprise the team.

Members of the honor guard commit to an 18-month tenure. The three flights rotate through a monthly duty cycle. For one month, members report to the honor guard facility to train and participate in ceremonial details. The next month they are off and report to their units. The third month they also report to their operational units, but they are on call for honor guard duty.

Staff Sgt. Angela Harris, an aeromedical journeyman in the 12th Medical Operations



Staff Sgts. Richard Geren and Angela Harris spread out the flag before folding it during military funeral honors training in the Randolph Honor Guard facility in Building 220. (Photos by 2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell)

Squadron, is an experienced trainer on the Randolph Honor Guard team.

"I first became interested in the honor guard after hearing about a performance from a friend at work," she said.

Watching an honor guard unit perform military funeral honors for the first time, she was struck by the strong display of military heritage, pride and honor the team displayed for the family of the deceased.

She encourages people who are interested in joining the team to stop by the honor guard facility to observe training or to see the team in person at a funeral or ceremony. She said some people do not have a clear understanding of the honor guard's role, and that many people are unaware of what goes on behind the scenes.

"Our training involves more than practicing drill and ceremony," she said. "We do hours of (physical training) and review procedures until our work is perfect."

As the honor guard's A-flight sergeant, Staff Sgt.

Richard Geren of the Joint Personal Property Shipping Office sees the honor guard as a great source of leadership experience and military discipline.

"Few staff sergeants have the leadership opportunities and experience I've received from being on the team," he said of his direct supervision of 22 people.

Character development and leadership experience are not the only benefits, however. Each member receives about \$1,200 in uniforms and equipment, all travel and operating costs for team duties are covered, and opportunities to work in high-profile settings is common.

Other benefits are less tangible.

"Some of my best friends are from the team, and the networking opportunities are great, but the real satisfaction is seeing how much we mean to the families," Sergeant Geren said. "Being part of the honor guard is not always easy. I see the families of the young men and women we honor at funerals and I can relate. I put myself in their place, which makes it hard not to get emotional."

Sergeant Harris has enjoyed the benefits of serving on the honor guard for five years. While her time on the team has afforded her the opportunity to meet civic leaders and general officers, her satisfaction comes from seeing new honor guard members progress through the training program to

become confident leaders and proud ambassadors for the Air Force.

The Team Randolph Honor Guard has remained one of the top five Honor Guard units in the Air Force since 2001, Sergeant Gardner said. Maintaining that level of success requires hours of training.

Sergeant Harris understands that recognition requires every service they perform to be executed perfectly.

The Team Randolph Honor Guard has remained one of the top five Honor Guard units in the Air Force since 2001.

"The best compliment we can get is recognition by other Honor Guard teams," she said.

The Randolph team was complimented by the Air Force Honor Guard as being "the best base honor guard unit in the Air Force" recently, which was a huge morale boost and reassurance to team members that their time and effort are well spent, she said.

In February, Sergeant Harris will be reassigned to Lackland to serve as a military training leader. She said she will rely on the discipline, military bearing and leadership skills she learned on the honor guard team to help in her new duties.

Sergeant Geren volunteered to join the honor guard a year and a half ago. After his first 18-month tour, he finds himself competing against the best in the Air Force as he applies to become a member of the Air Force Honor Guard.

"The three-year controlled tour would require a special release from my current unit," he said. Regardless of the outcome, he has every intention of serving on the honor guard team wherever he's stationed.

People considering joining the team should talk with their first sergeants, Sergeant Gardner said. He also encouraged volunteers to stop by the honor guard facility in Building 220, to observe training and talk with current members.



After the flag has been passed, Staff Sgt. Angela Harris renders a salute.

Airman wins tickets to Super Bowl

By Andrea Bostelman
12th Services Division

Watching football at the enlisted club this season landed a Randolph Airman a trip to the Super Bowl.

Airman 1st Class Brian Gravelle of the 12th Operations Support Squadron was one of four winners Air Force wide in the Football Frenzy contest held at the club September through November.

Airman Gravelle's two-person prize includes round-trip air fare, hotel accommodations, local transportation and

tickets to Super Bowl XL in Detroit Feb. 5.

A Randolph club member has won tickets to the Super Bowl during the Football Frenzy contest each year since 2000.

"Club membership allows members to reap the benefits of membership such as tickets to the Super Bowl and much more," said Merilyn Gove, enlisted club manager.



Airman 1st Class Brian Gravelle

Male, female athletes of the year announced

By Steve VanWert
Air Force Services Agency

One shoots at targets, the other at strikeouts, but both are the Air Force Services Agency's Athletes of the Year for 2005.

Maj. Roger Sherman, a special assistant to the commander of U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., is the 2005 Male Athlete of the Year. He is a member of the Air Force Action Pistol Team, which is comprised of some of the Air Force's top shooters. They compete internationally in the sport of practical pistol shooting.

Staff Sgt. Twyla Sears, of the 353rd Operations Support Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan, is the 2005 Female Athlete of the Year. Sergeant Sears is a pitcher for the All Armed Forces Women's Softball Team that

won the Amateur Softball Association's 2004 Western Regional Softball Championship. She earned First Team All American honors.

Both athletes were "stunned" to hear the news that they had been selected.

"It's great to be recognized for something you've worked so hard for," Major Sherman said. "I was overwhelmed with gratitude to my wife and son for all the sacrifices they made, allowing me to work toward my goals. I couldn't have done it without their love and support."

Sergeant Sears said, "I think this award shows everyone that you're not just a statistic and that you are valued and recognized for accomplishments that aren't necessarily job-related."

Major Sherman was the only

military servicemember selected to the U.S. Practical Shooting National team. His event combines many dimensions of shooting, including drawing from a holster and shooting at multiple moving targets. He finished sixth of 700 competitors at the U.S. Practical Shooting Association National Handgun Championship and was a bronze medalist at the world championship, competing against 1,200 shooters.

Sergeant Sears is recognized as one of the military's best softball players. Her all-star team advanced to represent the Armed Forces at the Western Regional tournament. Her performance led the armed forces team to the championship. She went on to pitch the Armed Forces team to second place in the Amateur Softball Association's Major Level Division championship.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Holiday Junior Golf

A junior golf class takes place Dec. 26-30 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Charles Bishop, PGA teaching professional, will instruct the class. The deadline to sign up is Dec. 23.

For more information, call Mr. Bishop at 652-4653

Resolution 5K Run

The fitness center staff hosts its annual Resolution 5-kilometer Fun Run and Walk Jan. 1 at 9 a.m. at Eberle Park.

Refreshments will be provided and T-shirts are awarded to the first 150 participants. This event is free and open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders.

For more information, call 652-2955.

Country Line Dancing

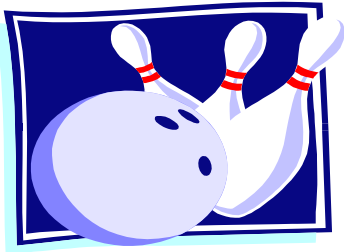
The fitness center offers a four-session country line dancing class Jan. 9, 17, 23, and 30 from 7-8 p.m. The cost is \$10 for the sessions.

For more information, call 652-5316.

Student makes 2A All-State

Randolph High School football linebacker Kyle Kuhl was the lone area player among the first or second team Associated Press Class 2A All-State football squad.

Kyle was a second-team pick after recording 142 tackles, including 11 for loss, for the Ro-Hawks. He also forced two fumbles and recovered three fumbles.



Intramural Bowling Standings

As of December 5

Team	W	L
CS	76	28
AMO	70	34
AFSVA	68	36
DFAS	68	36
SVS	66	38
AFMA	62	42
AETC/CONS	57	47
SFS	57	47
AETC/FM	56	48
AFPC	54	50
AETC/SC	54	50
AETC/LG	54	50
AFPOA	50	54
CPTS	44	60
JPPSO	36	68
OSS	36	68
AFPC/DFSG	34	70
AFSAT	34	70
340 FTG	34	70
MED GP	26	78

TEAM SCRATCH SERIES	
Team	Score
AFPC	2990
AETC/SC	2725
CS	2677

TEAM HANDICAP SERIES	
Team	Score
SVS	3309
SFS	3233
AFSAT	3143

TEAM SCRATCH GAME	
Team	Score
AETC/CONS	987
JPPSO	943
AFPOA	895

TEAM HANDICAP GAME	
Team	Score
OSS	1142
AFPC/DFSG	1131
AETC/LG	1125

SCRATCH SERIES	
Men	Score
Chris Goelz	662
Kevin West	650
Jim Layman Jr.	638
Women	Score
Lori Trainor	564
Judy Smith	542
Heather Hellmann	518

SCRATCH GAME	
Men	Score
Fred Moses	258
Andy Anderson Jr.	254
Mike Wiesmann	247
Women	Score
Lisa Barker	200
Shirley Harmon	187
Debra Chauvin	160

HANDICAP SERIES	
Men	Score
Randy Goodman	749
Chris Williams	749
Chris Featherstone	670
Ron Phillips	668
Women	Score
Marian Fischer	715
Teddy Lantrip	675
Linda Martin	675
Lisa Pellerin	632

HANDICAP GAME	
Men	Score
Jerry Bradfute	278
Travis Ward	267
Pup Shortland	265
Women	Score
Ada Fromuth	257
Jenny Nichols	244
Wanda Gailan	224

Whatever your
game, play it safe.

DON'T DRINK
AND DRIVE